



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takashi HIRAGA et al.

Application No.: 09/913,315

Filed: August 10, 2001

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GROUP 1700

Group Art Unit: 1732

Examiner: J. Gray

Docket No.: 110345

For: MODIFICATION METHOD OF SURFACE LAYER OF MOLDED RESIN ARTICLE,
AND MODIFICATION APPARATUS OF SURFACE LAYER OF MOLDED RESIN
ARTICLE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION / ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the April 11, 2003 Restriction/ Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1, 3-10, 13-17, 19-22, 24-29 and 40-45, and elect a molded article with dyestuff, claims 40-41, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-45 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all of claims 1-45 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species.

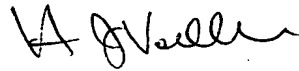
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden,

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the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction/Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:HJVTEA

Date: May 9, 2003

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